

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An assist assembly for an infeed pan of a wood chipper comprising:

5 at least one assist mount adapted to be connected to the wood chipper; and

at least one assist member connected to said assist mount and adapted to operatively engage the infeed pan to assist an operator in handling a bulk weight of the infeed pan  
10 when the infeed pan is raised and lowered by the operator.

2. An assist assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one assist member comprises a spring.

15 3. An assist assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one assist mount comprises at least one side member adapted to extend from an infeed hopper assembly of the wood chipper.

20 4. An assist assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one assist mount further comprises a support member extending from said at least one side member, said at least one assist member being connected to said at least one support member.

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5           at least one spring connected to said spring mount  
and adapted to operatively engage the infeed pan to assist an  
operator in handling a bulk weight of the infeed pan when the  
infeed pan is raised and lowered by the operator.

7. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least one spring has a first end extending outwardly and a second end extending outwardly to form a general "L" shape.

9. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said second end is longer than said first end, said second end being adapted to operatively engage the infeed pan.

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10. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 7 including a spring retainer adapted to be connected to the infeed pan to space said second end from said infeed pan.

5 11. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a plurality of spring mounts spaced laterally and adapted to be secured to an infeed hopper assembly of the wood chipper.

10 12. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 11 including a plurality of springs, one of said springs mounted to one of said spring mounts.

15 13. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein one of said spring mounts and one of said springs is adapted to be located adjacent the infeed pan.

20 14. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least one spring mount comprises at least one side member adapted to extend from an infeed hopper assembly of the wood chipper.

25 15. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said at least one spring mount further comprises a support member extending from said at least one side member.

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16. A spring assist assembly as set forth in claim 15 wherein said support member is rotatably secured to said at least one side member.

5 17. An infeed pan assembly for a wood chipper comprising:

an infeed pan;

at least one assist mount adapted to be connected to an infeed hopper assembly of the wood chipper; and

10 at least one assist member connected to said at least one assist mount and connected to said infeed pan and adapted for connection to the infeed hopper assembly to assist an operator in handling a bulk weight of said infeed pan when said infeed pan is raised and lowered by the operator.

15 18. An infeed pan assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one assist member comprises a spring.

20 19. An infeed pan assembly as set forth in claim 18 wherein said at least one spring has a first end extending outwardly and a second end extending outwardly to form a general "L" shape.

25 20. An infeed pan assembly as set forth in claim 19 wherein said at least one spring has a plurality of coils disposed between said first end and said second end.

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21. An infeed pan assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one assist mount comprises at least one side member adapted to extend from the infeed hopper assembly.

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22. An infeed pan assembly as set forth in claim 21 wherein said at least one assist mount further comprises a support member extending from said at least one side member.

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23. An infeed pan assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein said support member is rotatably secured to said at least one side member.

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24. A wood chipper comprising:  
an infeed hopper;  
an infeed pan pivotally connected to said infeed hopper;  
at least one assist mount connected to said infeed hopper; and

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at least one assist member connected to said at least one assist mount and to operatively engage said infeed pan and to operatively engage said infeed hopper to assist an operator in handling a bulk weight of said infeed pan when said infeed pan is raised and lowered by the operator.

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